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December 9, 2002

Dr. W. Emmett Barkley
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
4000 Jones Bridge Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Ref: 42 CFR Part 72, Appendix A

Dear Dr. Barkley:

I am writing to indicate University of Chicago support for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute approach to regulating Select Agent research. The main points in supporting this approach to the Select Agent Interim Final Rule are: removing Herpes B from the Select Agent list; establishing toxin threshold quantities for individual investigator laboratories, not facilities and only listing toxins with a vertebrate LD50 of less than 100 nanograms/kg; more clearly defining what aspects of recombinant DNA research are considered hazardous under the Rule; and summarizing the CDC risk assessment data in the Appendix to the Final Rule.

The University of Chicago appreciates the guidance of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute on this important matter.

Sincerely ,



Vice-President for Research and for
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CC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Infectious Diseases
Select Agent Transfer Program
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Mail Stop E-79
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